

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the patent application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

- a display device;
- a primary game adapted to be displayed by the display device;
- a set of reels in the primary game including a plurality of primary symbols;
- a plurality of primary awards associated with the primary symbols;
- a first secondary game adapted to be displayed by said display device;
- a set of reels in the first secondary game including a plurality of secondary symbols, wherein said secondary symbols include at least one different symbol than the primary symbols;
- a second secondary game adapted to be displayed by the display device;
- a plurality of secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols in each of the secondary games, wherein the secondary awards are different than the primary awards; and
- a processor which, in each play of the primary game, causes the display device to display the set of reels in the primary game, randomly determines the primary symbols indicated by the set of reels in the primary game, provides any primary awards associated with the primary symbols indicated on the reels in the primary game, causes the display device to replace the set of reels in the primary game with the set of reels in the first secondary game when a first triggering event occurs in the primary game, and after a first triggering event occurs in the primary game
 - (i) randomly determines the secondary symbols indicated by the set of reels of the first secondary game,
 - (ii) provides any secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols indicated on the reels in the first secondary game, and
 - (iii) causes the display device to replace the set of reels in the first secondary game with the second secondary game when a second triggering event occurs in the first secondary game,

wherein the primary game does not include a triggering event which directly causes the processor to cause the display device to display the second secondary game.

Claim 2 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein a plurality of the secondary symbols of the first secondary game are different than the primary symbols.

Claim 3 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein all of the secondary symbols of the first secondary game are different than the primary symbols.

Claim 4 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes less secondary symbols of the first secondary game than primary symbols.

Claim 5 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the second secondary game includes second secondary game symbols which are different than the secondary symbols of the first secondary game.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

a base game including a set of reels having a plurality of base game symbols;
a plurality of base game awards associated with the base game symbols;
a first bonus game including a set of reels having a plurality of first bonus game symbols, wherein the first bonus game symbols of said first bonus game are different than the base game symbols of the base game and wherein the plurality of first bonus game symbols in the first bonus game is less than the plurality of base game symbols in the base game;

a second bonus game;

a plurality of bonus game awards associated with the bonus game symbols in each of the bonus games, wherein the bonus game awards are different than the base game awards;

a display device; and

a processor in communication with the display device, which in each play of the base game, causes the display device to display the set of reels associated with the base game, randomly determines the displayed base game symbols, provides any base game awards associated with the base game symbols indicated on the reels in the base game, causes the display device to replace the set of reels associated with the base game with the set of the reels associated with the first bonus game when a first triggering event occurs in the base game, after a first triggering event occurs in the base game

(i) randomly determines the displayed first bonus game symbols,

(ii) provides any bonus game awards associated with the first bonus game symbols indicated on the reels in the first bonus game,

(iii) causes the display device to replace the set of reels in the first bonus game with the second bonus game when a second triggering event occurs in the first bonus game,

wherein the base game does not include a triggering event which causes the processor to directly provide the second bonus game.

Claim 7 (original): The gaming device of Claim 6, wherein a plurality of the first bonus game symbols in the first bonus game are different than the base game symbols.

Claim 8 (original): The gaming device of Claim 6, wherein the first bonus game symbols in the first bonus game are all different than the base game symbols.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

- a primary game;
- a set of primary reels in the primary game including a plurality of primary symbols;
- a plurality of primary awards associated with the primary symbols;
- a first secondary game;
- a set of secondary reels in the first secondary game including a plurality of secondary symbols, wherein said secondary symbols of the first secondary game are different than the primary symbols and wherein the plurality of secondary symbols of the first secondary game is less than the plurality of primary symbols of the primary game;
- a second secondary game;
- a plurality of secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols in each of the secondary games, wherein the secondary awards are different than the primary awards;
- a display device; and
- a processor in communication with the display device which in each play of the primary game, randomly determines the primary symbols indicated by the primary reels, provides any primary awards associated with the primary symbols indicated on the reels in the primary game, causes the display device to replace the primary reels with the secondary reels when a first triggering event occurs on the primary reels, after a first triggering event occurs on the primary reels
 - (i) randomly determines the secondary symbols indicated by the secondary reels,
 - (ii) provides any secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols indicated on the reels in the first secondary game,

(iii) replaces the secondary reels in the first secondary game with the second secondary game when a second triggering event occurs on the secondary reels in the first secondary game,

wherein the primary game does not include a first triggering event which causes the processor to directly provide the second secondary game.

Claim 10 (original): The gaming device of Claim 9, wherein all of the secondary symbols in the first secondary game are different than the primary symbols.

Claim 11 (original): The gaming device of Claim 9, which includes less secondary symbols in the first secondary game than the primary symbols.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) displaying on a display device a primary game including a set of primary reels having a plurality of primary symbols;
- (b) enabling a player to play the primary game;
- (c) providing any primary awards associated with the primary symbols indicated on the primary reels in the primary game to a player;
- (d) removing the primary reels from said display device;
- (e) replacing on said display device the primary reels with a set of secondary reels of a first secondary game when a first triggering event occurs in the primary game, said secondary reels of the first secondary game including a plurality of secondary symbols which are different than the primary symbols and for the secondary reels
 - (i) enabling the player to play the first secondary game on the display device;
 - (ii) providing any secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols indicated on the secondary reels in the first secondary game, wherein the secondary awards are different than the primary awards;
 - (iii) removing the secondary reels from said display device; and
 - (iv) replacing on said display device the secondary reels of the first secondary game with a second secondary game when a second triggering event occurs in the first secondary game, wherein the primary game does not include a triggering event which directly causes the activation of the second secondary game.

Claim 13 (original): The method of Claim 12, which includes a greater number of primary symbols than secondary symbols in the first secondary game.

Claim 14 (original): The method of Claim 12, wherein the secondary symbols are all different than the primary symbols.

Claim 15 (original): The method of Claim 12, wherein the gaming device is operated through a data network.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of Claim 15, wherein the data network is a computer data network.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying on a display device a base game including a set of reels having a plurality of base game symbols;

(b) enabling a player to play the base game;

(c) providing any base game awards associated with the base game symbols indicated on the reels in the base game;

(d) removing the base game from said display device;

(e) replacing on said display device the base game with a first bonus game when a first triggering event occurs in the base game, said first bonus game including a set of reels having a plurality of first bonus game symbols, wherein the first bonus game symbols of said first bonus game are different than the base game symbols of the base game and wherein the plurality of first bonus game symbols in the first bonus game is less than the plurality of base game symbols in the base game and for the first bonus game:

(i) enabling a player to play the first bonus game;

(ii) providing any bonus game awards associated with the first bonus game symbols indicated on the reels in the first bonus game, wherein the bonus game awards are different than the base game awards;

(iii) removing said first bonus game from said display device; and

(iv) replacing said first bonus game with a second bonus game when a second triggering event occurs in the first bonus game, wherein the base game does not include a triggering event which directly causes activation of the second bonus game.

Claim 18 (original): The method of Claim 17, wherein the first bonus game symbols are all different than the base game symbols.

Claim 19 (original): The method of Claim 17, wherein the gaming device is operated through a data network.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of Claim 19, wherein the data network is a computer data network.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) displaying on a display device a primary game including a set of primary reels having a plurality of primary symbols;
- (b) enabling a player to play the primary game;
- (c) providing any primary awards associated with the primary symbols indicated on the primary reels in the primary game to a player;
- (d) removing the primary game from said display device;
- (e) replacing on said display device the primary game with a first secondary game when a first triggering event occurs on the primary reels, said secondary game including a set of secondary reels having a plurality of secondary symbols, wherein said secondary symbols of the first secondary game are different than the primary symbols and wherein the plurality of secondary symbols of the first secondary game is less than the plurality of primary symbols of the primary game, and for the first secondary game:
 - (i) enabling a player to play the first secondary game;
 - (ii) providing any secondary awards associated with the secondary symbols indicated on the secondary reels in the first secondary game, wherein the secondary awards are different than the primary awards;
 - (iii) removing said first secondary game from said display device; and
 - (iv) replacing said first secondary game with a second secondary game when a second triggering event occurs on the secondary reels in the first secondary game, wherein the primary game does not include a triggering event which directly causes activation of the second secondary game.

Claim 22 (original): The method of Claim 21, wherein the secondary symbols are all different than the primary symbols.

Claim 23 (original): The method of Claim 21, wherein the gaming device is operated through a data network.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of Claim 23, wherein the data network is a computer data network.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the secondary awards is larger than all of the primary awards.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary awards in the second secondary game are different than the secondary awards in the first secondary game.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 26, wherein at least one of the secondary awards in the second secondary game is greater than all of the secondary awards in the first secondary game.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a probability of obtaining a winning combination of symbols associated with each winning combination of the primary symbols in the primary game and each winning combination of the secondary symbols in the first secondary game, wherein the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of secondary symbols are different than the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of primary symbols.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 28, wherein at least one of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of secondary symbols in the first secondary game is greater than all of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of primary symbols in the primary game.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 6, wherein at least one of the bonus game awards is larger than all of the base game awards.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 6, wherein the bonus game awards in the second bonus game are different than the bonus game awards in the first bonus game.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 31, wherein at least one of the bonus game awards in the second bonus game is greater than all of the bonus game awards in the first bonus game.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 6, which includes a probability of obtaining a winning combination of symbols associated with each winning combination of the base game symbols in the base game and each winning combination of the bonus game symbols in the first bonus game, wherein the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of bonus game symbols are different than the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of base game symbols.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 33, wherein at least one of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of bonus game symbols in the first bonus game is greater than all of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of base game symbols in the base game.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 9, wherein at least one of the secondary awards is larger than all of the primary awards.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 9, wherein the secondary awards in the second secondary game are different than the secondary awards in the first secondary game.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 36, wherein at least one of the secondary awards in the second secondary game is greater than all of the secondary awards in the first secondary game.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 9, which includes a probability of obtaining a winning combination of symbols associated with each winning combination of the primary symbols in the primary game and each winning combination of the secondary symbols in the first secondary game, wherein the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of secondary symbols are different than the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of primary symbols.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 38, wherein at least one of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of secondary symbols in the first secondary game is greater than all of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of primary symbols in the primary game.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The method of Claim 12, wherein at least one of the secondary awards is larger than all of the primary awards.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The method of Claim 12, wherein the secondary awards in the second secondary game are different than the secondary awards in the first secondary game.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method of Claim 41, wherein at least one of the secondary awards in the second secondary game is greater than all of the secondary awards in the first secondary game.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The method of Claim 12, which includes a probability of obtaining a winning combination of symbols associated with each winning combination of the primary symbols in the primary game and each winning combination of the secondary symbols in the first secondary game, wherein the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of secondary symbols are different than the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of primary symbols.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein at least one of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of secondary symbols in the first secondary game is greater than all of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of primary symbols in the primary game.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The method of Claim 17, wherein at least one of the bonus game awards is larger than all of the base game awards.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The method of Claim 17, wherein the bonus game awards in the second bonus game are different than the bonus game awards in the first bonus game.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The method of Claim 46, wherein at least one of the bonus game awards in the second bonus game is greater than all of the bonus game awards in the first bonus game.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The method of Claim 17, which includes a probability of obtaining a winning combination of symbols associated with each winning combination of the base game symbols in the base game and each winning combination of the bonus game symbols in the first bonus game, wherein the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of bonus game symbols are different than the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of base game symbols.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The method of Claim 48, wherein at least one of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of bonus game symbols in the first bonus game is greater than all of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of base game symbols in the base game.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The method of Claim 21, wherein at least one of the secondary awards is larger than all of the primary awards.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The method of Claim 21, wherein the secondary awards in the second secondary game are different than the secondary awards in the first secondary game.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The method of Claim 51, wherein at least one of the secondary awards in the second secondary game is greater than all of the secondary awards in the first secondary game.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The method of Claim 21, which includes a probability of obtaining a winning combination of symbols associated with each winning combination of the primary symbols in the primary game and each winning combination of the secondary symbols in the first secondary game, wherein the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of secondary symbols are different than the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of primary symbols.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The method of Claim 53, wherein at least one of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of secondary symbols in the first secondary game is greater than all of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of primary symbols in the primary game.

Claim 55 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

- a display device;
- a primary game adapted to be displayed by the display device;
- a set of reels in the primary game including a plurality of primary symbols;
- a probability of obtaining a winning combination of primary symbols associated with each winning combination of the primary symbols;
- a first secondary game adapted to be displayed by said display device;
- a set of reels in the first secondary game including a plurality of secondary symbols, wherein said secondary symbols include at least one different symbol than the primary symbols;
- a second secondary game adapted to be displayed by the display device;
- a probability of obtaining a winning combination of secondary symbols associated with each winning combination of the secondary symbols, wherein the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of the secondary symbols are different than the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of the primary symbols; and
- a processor which in each play of the primary game, causes the display device to display the set of reels in the primary game, randomly determines a winning combination of the primary symbols on the reels in the primary game based on the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of the primary symbols, causes the display device to remove the set of reels in the primary game from the display device and replace the set of reels in the primary game with the set of reels in the first secondary game when a first triggering event occurs in the primary game, after a first triggering event occurs in the primary game
 - (i) randomly determines a winning combination of the secondary symbols on the reels in the first secondary game based on the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of the secondary symbols, and

(ii) causes the display device to remove the set of reels in the first secondary game from the display device and replace the set of reels in the first secondary game with the second secondary game when a second triggering event occurs in the first secondary game, wherein the primary game does not include a triggering event which directly causes the processor to cause the display device to display the second secondary game.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 55, wherein at least one of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of secondary symbols in the first secondary game is greater than all of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of primary symbols in the primary game.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 55, wherein the probabilities associated with winning combinations of secondary symbols in the second secondary game are different than the probabilities associated with winning combinations of secondary symbols in the first secondary game.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 57, wherein at least one of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of secondary symbols in the second secondary game is greater than all of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of secondary symbols in the first secondary game.

Claim 59 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

- a base game including a set of reels having a plurality of base game symbols;
- a probability of obtaining a winning combination of base game symbols associated with each winning combination of the base game symbols;
- a first bonus game including a set of reels having a plurality of bonus game symbols, wherein the bonus game symbols of said first bonus game are different than the base game symbols of the base game and wherein the plurality of bonus game symbols in the first bonus game is less than the plurality of base game symbols in the base game;
- a second bonus game;
- a probability of obtaining a winning combination of bonus game symbols associated with each winning combination of the bonus game symbols, wherein the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of the bonus game symbols are different than the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of the base game symbols;
- a display device; and
- a processor in communication with the display device, which in each play of the base game, causes the display device to display the set of reels associated with the base game, randomly determines a winning combination of the base game symbols based on the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of base game symbols, causes the display device to remove the set of reels associated with the base game and replace the set of reels associated with the base game with the set of the reels associated with the first bonus game when a first triggering event occurs in the base game, after a first triggering event occurs in the base game
 - (i) randomly determines a winning combination of bonus game symbols in the first bonus game based on the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of the bonus game symbols and
 - (ii) provides the second bonus game to the player when a second triggering event occurs in the first bonus game, wherein the base game does not include a triggering event which directly causes the processor to provide the second bonus game.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 59, wherein at least one of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of bonus game symbols in the first bonus game is greater than all of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of base game symbols in the primary game.

Claim 61 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 59, wherein the probabilities associated with winning combinations of bonus game symbols in the second bonus game are different than the probabilities associated with winning combinations of bonus game symbols in the first bonus game.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 61, wherein at least one of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of bonus game symbols in the second bonus game is greater than all of the probabilities associated with the winning combinations of bonus game symbols in the first bonus game.